

As a current Extra class amateur radio operator, I followed the events of the WRC 2003. My interest in the proceedings was due to the expectation that the international requirements for Morse Code proficiency would be dropped. As expected, the proceedings agreed upon achieved exactly that.

Now the National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) have asked that you, the FCC, remove the CW requirement in amateur licensing.

I could not more strongly agree with the petition.

I see no need to maintain a slow-speed CW requirement for access to HF privileges. I do not believe it acts as a "filter" to keep out undesirable elements of the ham radio service, nor do I believe that CW proficiency (or lack of it) determines the worth of a licensee. While CW has use as an effective, simple and narrow-bandwidth mode with a correspondingly high signal-to-noise ratio, new computer sound card modes with digital signal processing have better ratios with a shallower learning curve. PSK31 is but one example. From a purely technical standpoint, Morse code is not as useful as the above modes for long distance communications.

CW should always have a place in amateur radio, but to keep it as a testing requirement would place emphasis on a mode that is no longer as valuable as it once was. For traditionally minded individuals it is simply impossible to separate ham radio from CW. While I will not fault anyone for an interest in CW, its continued association with amateur radio for testing purposes is no longer relevant.

Once again, I urge you to consider the NCVEC's petition favorably and remove the CW requirement from FCC regulated amateur radio licensing.

Sincerely,  
Roger Davis